

# **SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**



**Contact: Inspector Richard Hunton  
Office: (803) 896-7013  
After Hours: (803) 737-9000**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 11, 2005**

### **TROOPER CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT**

A South Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper was arrested on Friday morning, November 11, 2005, and charged with **Misconduct in Office**.

The Trooper is identified as **L/CPL Stephen A. Watts**, 28, who currently resides at 101 Nancy Drive, Pelion, S.C. Watts was arrested around 3:00 a.m. and was booked at the Lexington County Detention Center.

This arrest was the result of a joint investigation conducted by SLED and the Lexington County Sheriff's Office. The case will be prosecuted by the Eleventh Circuit Solicitor's Office.

This is an ongoing investigation involving Hispanic victims in several counties and additional charges are anticipated.

## ARREST WARRANT

J-065450

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF LexingtonTHE STATE  
against

Stephen A. Watts

Address: 101 Nancy Drive

Pelion, SC 29123

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: M Height: 0-0 Weight: 0

DL State: DL#:

DOB: 06/20/1977 Agency ORI#: 3200

Prosecuting Agency: L. C. S. D.

Prosecuting Officer: Ward, Kelly SA

Offense: MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

Offense Code

Code/Ordinance Sec.: Common Law 5

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE  
in the COUNTY/ MUNICIPALITY OFThe accused is to be arrested and brought  
before me to be dealt with according to  
law.

(LS)

Signature of Judge

Date:

## RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered  
to defendant Stephen A. Watts  
on 11-11-05

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

4:11 AM

## RETURN WARRANT TO

GARY REINHART  
521 GIBSON ROAD  
LEXINGTON, SC 29072  
951-2542

ORIGINAL COURT COPY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF Lexington

## AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me the affiant Kelly Agent Ward who  
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Stephen A. Watts  
did within this county and state on 11/10/2005 violate the criminal laws of the  
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of )  
in the following particulars:

## DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the above did commit  
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:That on or about 10-30-05 the defendant, Stephen A. Watts, a uniformed Trooper of the SC  
Highway Patrol, did stop an identified motorist about Highway 23 in the Leesville area of  
Lexington County, SC. This stop was tainted when the defendant forced the motorist to pay  
\$40.00 to conclude the stop and avoid citation or prosecution. This monetary exchange was  
against policy and not receipted for the state or defendant.

Signature of Affiant

Affiant's SLED  
Information Kelly Agent Ward  
4400 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210  
737-9000

## ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:  
It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that  
on 11/10/2005 defendant Stephen A. Watts  
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  
) as set forth below:DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE:  
Common Law 5 MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE  
MISCONDUCT/MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE (17)Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest  
the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this  
Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is  
practicable.Sworn to and subscribed before me  
on 11/11/2005Signature of issuing Judge (L.S.)  
Judge code: 041 Issuing Court: MagistrateIssuing Judge  
GARY S. MORGAN  
231 WEST CHURCH ST.  
BATESBURG, SC 29006  
(803) 359-8330

ORIGINAL COURT COPY

ORIGINAL COURT COPY